

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
DELTA DIVISION**

MARK BLACKSON

PLAINTIFF

VS

CAUSE NO. 2:10-CV-169-P-A

**DESOTO COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI,
and SHERIFF WILLIAM
RASCO, INDIVIDUALLY and
In his official capacity as Sheriff of DeSoto
County, Mississippi**

DEFENDANTS

MOTION TO DISMISS

COME NOW Defendants, by counsel, and respectfully move this Court to dismiss this case pursuant to *Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 12(b)(1) & (6)* as follows:

1. SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION: Consistent with Fifth Circuit precedent, this

Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over the Amended Complaint

2. INDIVIDUAL AND DUPLICITOUS CLAIMS: There are no individual capacity

claims under USERRA. Official claims against Desoto County must also fail, because at best the County is a duplicate party to claims against Sheriff Rasco in his official capacity.

3. IMPROPER DAMAGE CLAIMS: Claims for punitive damages and emotional distress damages are not authorized by USERRA. Likewise, injunctive relief is not plausible under the Amended Complaint because there is no issue of irreparable harm.

NOW, THEREFORE Defendants pray that upon consideration hereof, the Court enter its order as follows:

(A) That this Court dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint without prejudice for lack of subject matter jurisdiction;

(B) That in the alternative, the Court dismiss Sheriff Rasco (individually), dismiss Desoto County (as duplicitous), and dismiss all claims of punitive damages, emotional distress damages and injunctive relief; and,

(C) That this Court award these Defendants their attorney fees, costs and expenses associated with the defense of the instant civil action pursuant to Rule 11, *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure* and The Mississippi Litigation Accountability Act of 1988, and *Miss. Code Ann.* § 11-1-54 (2003).

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 12th day of November, 2010.

DEFENDANTS

By: /s/ *Daniel J. Griffith*
Daniel J. Griffith, MS Bar No. 8366
Attorney for Defendants

Of Counsel:

GRIFFITH & GRIFFITH
123 South Court Street
P. O. Drawer 1680
Cleveland, MS 38732
Phone No. 662-843-6100
Fax No. 662-843-8153

Tony Nowak, Esq.
SMITH PHILLIPS MITCHELL
SCOTT & NOWAK
2545 Caffey Street
P. O. Box 346
Hernando, MS 38632
Phone: 662-429-5041
E-mail: tony@smithphillips.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Daniel J. Griffith, attorney of record for Defendants, do hereby certify that I have this day caused a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing *MOTION TO DISMISS* to be delivered by *VIA ECF FILING* to the following Counsel of Record:

James David Harper, Esq.
[jdh@jamesharperlaw.com](mailto: jdh@jamesharperlaw.com)
Richard D. Underwood, Esq.
[rdu@underwoodthomas.com](mailto: rdu@underwoodthomas.com)
Counsel for Plaintiff

DATED this 12th day of November, 2010.

/s/ *Daniel J. Griffith*
Daniel J. Griffith